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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 1054

much, but we wanted to do something that would...that would be helpful. We had another hearing on the bill, as I mentioned, and I remember the mayor of Wayne coming to that hearing, Sheryl Lindau from up in Wayne, Nebraska, and talking about a recall that she had gone through. She hadn't been recalled but she had to go through that whole process simply because she refused to put back on the ballot something that the voters had already decided upon. And so the person got angry because she wouldn't put it back on the ballot, et cetera. And what we were told is oftentimes there was no way to defend yourself, so this...this bill does four very simple things. It says that you have to have the name and the individual that's being recalled on the ballot that...or on the petition, the name and the office that they hold. You have to have the reason on the ballot. It has to be stated in so many words and that is done by the person who's taking out the petition. Thirdly, you have to allow the person who is being...on whom the attempt is being made to recall, you have to allow them to make a similar statement in their own defense. And then, finally, you have to have the name of the circulator on the petition. That's the main guts of the bill. It's not onerous, but it will perhaps give those who are subject to recall an equal opportunity. The other thing that the bill addresses, and we talked about this for a long time either, is if it says that a vacancy will occur on a city council or board of trustees if the member is absent more than five consecutive regular meetings unless the absences are excused by a majority vote of the remaining members. It makes it a little bit easier, and that's in cities of the first and second classes and villages, makes it a little bit easier to deal with people who do not show up and serve their term as they're supposed to. So those are the main provisions. I'd be happy to try to answer questions. As I said, this bill was worked on for a long time. It's strongly supported by the League of Municipalities and I would encourage its adoption.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Debate on the amendment? Senator Schimek, you're recognized to close. She waives that opportunity. The question before the body is the adoption of the Schimek amendment. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record.